

AWAITING HIS DOOM.

LANGSTER IN A QUIET AND RETICENT MOOD.

He is visited by a "Critic" Reporter To-day—A Letter From His Counsel Advising Him to Give Up Hope and Make Peace With His Maker.

John Langster, the murderer of Officer Fowler, who is to pay the extreme penalty of the law Friday morning, still continues the line of good behavior he adopted at once upon being informed and Monday by Warden Crocker, that official information had been received that the execution must positively take place.

Since Monday, General Crocker, at the united request of the condemned man and Rev. Father Sullivan, his spiritual adviser, has invariably refused all requests to see Langster, but this morning, released the rule to allow a CRITIC reporter to attempt an interview. Langster was asked to sit in the regular army, but no response could be obtained, and he remained hidden from view in the corner of the cell by the grated door. Later on he was detected furtively peeping out, but finding himself watched again hid himself.

The cell he is confined in is No. 1, in the east corridor of the south wing, and is the one from which Guitau went forth to his death. It contains only a rude straw mattress upon the floor—he having broken up all the furniture—two pillows and a gray woolen blanket. There is, besides, a sawdust-filled wooden spittoon and a tin wash-basin.

This morning a letter was received for Langster from W. Davis, who has exerted himself in his behalf, in which the writer bids him farewell and commends him to turn to his Maker for the only help that can come; that there is no righteous remaining from human interference, and urges him to meet his impending fate manfully. "I commend you to the Father of all," the letter concludes.

All of the prisoners have been removed from the corridor in which the condemned man is confined, so that he is entirely isolated from intrusion, or even the sight of any but the official who bring him food. The scaffold, as already published, is in position at the north end of the north-east area, and from the platform to cell No. 32, through a covered wooden tunnel, runs the rope which will draw the bolts to the trap. The trap bolts will be pulled by one of the officials, who will be notified to-morrow evening by General Crocker. The prevailing idea that some prisoner selected for this duty is erroneous, for the law specially forbids it, and also forbids that any prisoner shall witness the execution.

General Crocker does not anticipate any scene on the scaffold, except that Langster may weaken so that he must be held, it being his opinion that he is naturally so much of a coward that he will break down. He has no fear of an attempt at suicide, and does not think that a pistol or knife to Langster's hand would lead to any attempt on his own life, though his vicious nature might lead him to attack others.

A NEW DANGER.

A Man Knocked Down and Robbed in Lafayette Square.

Mr. William F. Curtis, a young white man, about twenty-two years of age, a stranger in the city, boarding at 622 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, while passing through Lafayette Park about 9:50 o'clock last night, on his way to his boarding-house, was approached from behind by a negro footpad, one of whom struck him on the head with a club, and after knocking him down, robbed him of six dollars, two boxes, two pocket-knives, two pairs of shears and a scarf-pin, valued in all at \$24.

The case has been investigated by the police and found to be fully corroborated by a person who saw the robbery. The square a short time previous to the assault, but that there is no right of way. No clue has been obtained, however, as to the identity of the men.

LOCAL BRIEFS.

The street-lamps will be lighted at 7:55 p. m. and extinguished at 3:30 a. m.

The Butler Zouaves held a ball last evening at the hall corner of Sixth and Carrolls.

Mr. Ezra C. Davis, who was elected first annual May ball at the National Riders' Hall to-night.

The residence of Mr. A. H. Davis, No. 35 O street northwest, was entered by burglars last night between 10 and 11 o'clock, but that there is no right of way.

A COCKING MATCH between Washington and Virginia birds was fought in Bladensburg last Monday, the former winning. Twenty-five dollars was bet on each fight and \$100 on the result.

The Washington Canoe Club has decided to institute regular meets on the river every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon. The first club camp of the season will be inaugurated on the 25th instant.

MANHATTAN LITERATURE have been issued to Joseph W. Otis and Josephine E. Hartbrecht, Henry Bolae of Sheldon, Va., and Margaret Sullivan, James Tobin of this city and Jerry Dowling of Montgomery County, Md. Messrs. Marx of Norfolk, Va., and Jennie Schmidt.

JUDGE BUTLER of the United States District Court in Philadelphia yesterday morning granted a warrant of removal for the person of Charles T. Ryan, known as Kelly, who is wanted by the authorities of Washington, D. C., to answer the charge of stealing a \$500 note on the 15th of April last from Alfred Richards while the latter was about to make a deposit in the Citizens' National Bank of this city.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Associated Charities of the District of Columbia last night the monthly reports of the First, Sixth and Twelfth wards were read, showing them to be in good working condition. A committee, consisting of Rev. Dr. John S. Lindsay, J. W. Voorhees, Rev. Dr. Rush R. Shippen, Mrs. Snell, Mrs. Enoch Totten and Mrs. Hayden, will be authorized to delegate to the twelfth National Conference of Charities and Corrections in this city.

The Charity Organization Society last night elected the following delegates to the National Conference of Charities and Corrections to be held in this city June 4: B. Pickman Man, W. W. Burdette, John F. Cook, Rev. A. J. Williams, Mrs. M. E. Sheel, Mrs. E. F. Poole, and C. J. Adams. The following have been elected to membership in the society: Messrs. B. F. Gilbert, Louis Barr, Frederick Douglas, Edgar Richards, Mrs. W. D. Stroud and Miss Mary F. Vander Sande.

Colonel Lyford's Ashes.

The body of the late Colonel Stephen C. Lyford of the Ontario corps, who died in this city a short time since, was interred in the cemetery at Lancaster, Pa., yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Only two friends, who accompanied the body, were witnesses of the ceremony. The ashes will arrive in this city at the Baltimore and Potomac depot at 10:15 o'clock to-morrow morning, and will be taken to the Arlington Cemetery for interment.

Had Been to the Races.

Robert J. McElroy of West Baltimore street, Baltimore, Md., was found lying on the Breunow road, near Ivy City, about 6 o'clock last evening by Officer West in an intoxicated condition. He was minus his hat, and a gold hunting-case watch valued at \$40 had been stolen from his pocket.

W. M. Crane of Springfield, Mass., and E. A. Morgan of Baltimore, Md., have been elected to the position of judges of the horse race at the Washington Fair, to be held at the National Fair Grounds, on the 15th of June.

Dr. E. A. Chandler came up this morning from Fredericktown, Md., where he went last Saturday to attend a funeral of his sister.

OUR DRINKING WATER.

Health Officer Townsend Says That It is the Purest in the Country.

Health Officer Townsend stated to a CRITIC reporter this morning that our drinking water was the purest in the country. "The weekly analysis of it by the District chemist shows this," he said. He stated that the talk about the water being impure was pure nonsense. "It is pure," he said, "and the water is pure because it is a running body of water."

"If the whole canal were turned into the river it would hardly be sufficient to pollute the water to any great extent," he remarked. He said the sluice gate above the dam was there before the dam was thought of, and there has been a scheme on foot for the past two years to remove it. "As to the canal of Fillet that enters the upper Potomac," he said, "it is small in comparison to other rivers that are used for water supplies."

Dr. Townsend has sent the following to the committee in connection with the recent inspection of the water-works and the canal:

GENTLEMEN: In consequence of the newspaper reports circulated throughout the country, I have had the honor of visiting the conduit from the dam above the Great Falls to the water-works, and have been gratified to find that the water is pure and of good quality, and that the water-works have been properly maintained for some time, contemplating the removal of the sluice gate above the dam, and the canal, with the water, from the canal might reach the dam and thereby enter the conduit which supplies our city.

AFRICA VS. ITALY.

A Serious Riot Among Laborers on the Boundary.

A serious riot occurred on the Boundary sewer yesterday afternoon between the colored and Italian laborers. There were about fifty men engaged in the fight and stones were flying as thick as hail. The most remarkable feature of the whole affair was the fact that no one was seriously hurt. The trouble originated about a bucket of water. The men were at work at North Capitol and O streets at the time. The colored and Italian laborers were working in separate gangs and each crew tried to outwork the other.

One of the Italians was drawing a bucket of water, and a colored man jerked the hose out of his hand and began filling his bucket. The colored men got into an altercation, and their respective gangs came to their rescue, and in a few minutes the whole gang was in a fight and hurling rocks at each other.

The police reserve was ordered out, but before they arrived the fight was over. Lieutenant of Police Austin says it was the largest riot that has occurred here in years. Albert Green, colored; Angelo Mongier, Italian; and John P. Sullivan, Italian, were put on trial in the Police Court this morning for making an affray.

The evidence in the case was in accordance with the above facts and a fine of \$5 each was imposed.

Officer Daly has arrested four additional rioters.

OFF TO THE SEA-SHORE.

Departure of the Newspaper Men for Fortress Monroe.

About two hundred newspaper men and their families left this morning on an excursion trip at the invitation of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. At Baltimore they were joined by about forty more. Nearly all of these excursionists were accompanied by ladies. A Philadelphia correspondent was joined by about one hundred more newspaper men. Mr. R. A. Parker, the passenger agent of the road here, took charge of the Washington contingent of the excursion.

The trip includes a visit to Old Point Comfort over the New York, Philadelphia & Norfolk Railroad and a return on the Old Bay Line steamer Virginia to Baltimore next Friday morning. In special cars the excursionists will reach Cape Charles at 3:40 this afternoon and Old Point Comfort at 5:15. They will stop at the Hyacinth Hotel until to-morrow evening, and then leave for Baltimore.

Another Battle Monument.

A shaft of Maryland granite is to be dedicated at London Park Cemetery, Baltimore, on Decoration day, in memory of the Civil War soldiers who are buried there. It is an elaborate structure, with appropriate inscriptions, and its base adorned with battle scenes in terra-cotta. It is the work of the Penitentiary of this city, and cost \$1,000. The design was by Mr. William J. A. Parker, and the work was done by the Penitentiary.

The report of the Health Officer for last week shows that the mortality has increased slightly, there being ten deaths from this disease, the mortality among the colored people was very large—three times as great as the white.

The total mortality for the week ended May 9 was 80. Of this number 32 were white and 48 colored. The death rate per 1,000 per annum was 12.73 for the white, and 20.45 for the colored, and 19.50 for the total population.

The Powell Will Case.

Messrs. J. S. Johnson and E. E. McKay, for the executors to the will of the late Admiral Powell, to-day filed a bill of exceptions to the ruling of Judge Cox during the trial of the will. The jury sustained the will, and the executors except to the admission of certain evidence and the exclusion of testimony by Judge Cox. The case now goes to the Court in General Term.

Members of Hiaswatha Lodge No. 19 will meet at Seventh and Pennsylvania avenues this evening at 7 o'clock sharp, to visit the National Conference of Charities and Corrections to be held in this city June 4: B. Pickman Man, W. W. Burdette, John F. Cook, Rev. A. J. Williams, Mrs. M. E. Sheel, Mrs. E. F. Poole, and C. J. Adams.

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WEST WASHINGTON.

THE CUMBERLAND COAL TRAIL—The Cumberland coal shipments for last week were 64,192 tons; total shipments for the year, 1,754,181 tons; increase of 49,200 tons and 2.8 per cent. over the same week of last year.

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THE POLICE COURT.

Dennis Crowley, who keeps a saloon near the Washington Monument, was today fined \$105 in the Police Court for selling liquor without a license. An appeal was noted.

Annie Broadas, a colored girl about 15 years of age, was fined \$30 in the Police Court to-day for making an assault upon Margaret Lane and Lillian Lane, mother and daughter.

Moses Smith, a small colored boy, was given thirty days in jail for carrying a revolver from Henry Sharp, a white man, a brutal negro youth named Wm. Dixon was in the Police Court this morning for making a felonious assault on Ella Walker, a young colored girl. A colored woman named Maria Carter was also brought to the assault. The accused was committed for the action of the grand jury in default of \$1,000 bail.

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Children's, age 5 to 13, with knee pants, \$5. All suits, \$10 and \$12; value \$15 at other places. The reason we offer them at these prices is we want to turn them into money at once.

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